



# World View

CANADA

Issue 11 • Spring 2001

## THE SUMMIT OF THE **Americas**

SETTING THE  
millennium

AGENDA  
FOR THE

*"gran familia"*



### The Issues

- strengthening democracy
- creating prosperity
- realizing human potential

### Civil Society

An emerging force in hemispheric affairs

### John Manley

Meet the new Minister of Foreign Affairs

Canada 



is published in both English and French under the authority of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, John Manley.

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

**Managing Editor** Jacques Larochelle  
**Writers** Ronald Baynes  
Chris McKillop  
**Copy Editors** Nicole Chênevert-Miquelon  
William Hart  
**Graphic Design** GLS Deign

To receive free copies of our magazine and other DFAIT publications, or to notify us of a change of address:

Enquiries Service (SXCI)  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
125 Sussex Drive, B-2  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

Tel.: 1-800-267-8376 (toll-free) or (613) 944-4000 (National Capital Region)  
Fax: (613) 996-9709  
E-mail: [enqserv@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:enqserv@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

**Canada World View**  
is also available on the Internet:  
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-magazine>

**ABOUT CANADA WORLD VIEW**  
Published quarterly, *Canada World View* provides an overview of current foreign policy issues and Canada's perspective on them. It also updates readers on Canadian initiatives, responses and contributions in the field of international affairs.

## OUR COVER

Québec City, Quebec  
*photo:* Greater Québec Area Tourism and Convention Bureau  
Yves Tessier, Productions Tessima

ISSN 1491-4573

COMING EVENTS	EVENTS		
	MARCH	MAY	JUNE
	March 20 International Day of La Francophonie	May 14–16 OECD Ministerial Meeting Paris, France	June 6–7 APEC Trade Ministers' Meeting Shanghai, China
	April 4–8 Free Trade Area of the Americas Ministerial Meeting Buenos Aires, Argentina	May 22–23 NATO Ministerial Meeting Budapest, Hungary	June 7–8 NATO Defence Ministers' Meeting Brussels, Belgium
	April 20–22 Summit of the Americas Québec City, Canada		

## In this issue

<b>Word from the Editors</b>	3	<b>The Participants</b>	22
<b>John Manley</b>	4	Snapshot of each country and its leader	
Meet the new Minister of Foreign Affairs		<b>Playing Host to the Americas</b>	32
<b>Profiles in Diplomacy</b>	6	Events hosted by Canada in the past two years	
Marc Lortie, the PM's representative for the Summit		<b>The Managua Challenge</b>	33
Peter Boehm, Canada's Ambassador to the OAS		Ridding the Americas of anti-personnel mines	
<b>Focus on People at Québec</b>	8	<b>What Canadians Say</b>	34
The central issues on the table at the Summit		Viewpoints on North Korea and UN peace operations	
<b>Civil Society</b>	12	<b>Nations in the News</b>	35
Weaving together the hemispheric family		Outlook: Warm and sunny for Canada–Caribbean ties	
<b>Youth in the Americas</b>	14	<b>Culture</b>	36
Canadians make their mark		What binds our diverse societies together	
<b>Canada and the Hemisphere</b>	16	<b>Artists of the Americas</b>	38
An ever-closer relationship		New dimensions to Canada's identity	
<b>Canada's IDRC in the Americas</b>	19	<b>Did you know?</b>	40
Helping People Help Themselves			

# THE SUMMIT OF THE Americas

DISCOVER OUR  
*extended family*

From April 20 to 22, Québec City welcomes leaders of the Hemisphere to the 2001 Summit of the Americas. This landmark event is the third and by far the largest-ever summit meeting bringing together the 34 democratically elected governments of the region. The Americas are a mirror of today's world. Developed and developing nations rub shoulders in a kaleidoscope of cultures, tongues and traditions. The Hemisphere has four official languages: English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. But in reality, hundreds of local languages and dialects are spoken, and regional variations remain pronounced despite the inroads of globalization.

It's true that economic disparities persist and millions of people lack decent living conditions. Still, more than ever before, poverty eradication is a top priority for the Hemisphere. While progress remains uneven, an idea took root at the 1994 Miami Summit, sprouted in 1998 in Santiago and is coming to flower in Québec. During its three days, the Summit will further the quest for a better life for all in the Americas. The

focus is on three overarching themes: strengthening democracy, creating prosperity and realizing human potential. These provide the framework for government leaders' discussions plus the parallel meetings of non-government organizations and institutions working to give their fellow citizens a better life.

The Québec Summit and the decisions emerging from it will top the news. But media coverage of the meetings will hardly be the full story. Out of the glare of the headlines a vast structure of co-operation is taking shape, and it is gradually but irrevocably changing the face of the Hemisphere and the relations between its peoples.

This special 40-page issue of *Canada World View* is a voyage of discovery, with Québec as the departure point. We highlight the issues at stake at the Summit, the problems, the possible solutions, the web of ties from Nunavut to Tierra del Fuego, and the people committed to improving the lot of every member of the "gran familia."

Come with us to meet the peoples of the Americas. Join us in exploring the rich diversity of our Hemisphere. And to learn more and link up with other explorers from the region, visit <http://www.AmericasCanada.org>—your gateway to a New World of knowledge.

*The Editors*





# NEW MINISTER, NEW VISION:

After seven years as Minister of Industry, John Manley was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs on October 17, 2000. *Canada World View* presents a profile of the new Minister and his vision of Canada's international relations.

## A passion for high tech

Often described as the "connected Minister," John Manley has an unusual profile for a member of the federal Cabinet. Like several of his colleagues he is a lawyer, but he stands out for being computer-savvy and passionately interested in electronic devices and the Internet.

In high school he was a math whiz, fascinated by computers. He studied mathematics—and political science—at Carleton University before specializing in tax law at the University of Ottawa. Around Parliament Hill he always carries his Canadian-designed BlackBerry handheld computer, exchanging frequent wireless e-mails with his staff. And while sitting at his desk in the House of Commons, he even receives briefing notes electronically for use in Question Period.

One of his priorities as Minister of Industry was to ensure an Internet connection for every Canadian public school and library by March 1999 through the SchoolNet program. In addition, he fostered innovation at the Canadian Space Agency, the National Research Council, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and elsewhere—always with the aim of securing Canada's position as a global leader in high technology.

## A passion for politics

Aside from maths, computers and science, another passion has shaped John Manley's life: politics. He grew up in a household where political questions dominated conversation at the supper table. When he was 12 years old, his parents took him to the House of Commons to watch the debates from the public galleries. In 1968 he was a young volunteer at the leadership convention that chose Pierre Elliott Trudeau to head the Liberal Party.

From his studies John Manley went on to a successful law career, but politics continued to attract him. He first ran for Parliament in 1988. Then as now, he set himself lofty goals: to achieve positive changes for the people of his riding of Ottawa South, and to help prepare Canada and Canadians for the 21st century.



In Toronto in October 1998, Alexandra Terpay (front right) and Sharon Choy (left) show off their research project to Microsoft CEO Bill Gates (back left) and then Industry Minister John Manley at a news conference announcing initiatives to get schools on-line.

## Foreign policy agenda

Given his background, it's no surprise that Mr. Manley sees economic issues as central to the Foreign Affairs portfolio. In his words, he doesn't think "there's a country in the world that doesn't consider its economic interest to be a key part of its foreign policy interests. However, Canada's foreign policy has always been value-based, and those values include the support for basic human rights, the support for the distribution of wealth, and the investments we've made in peacekeeping and in overseas development assistance."

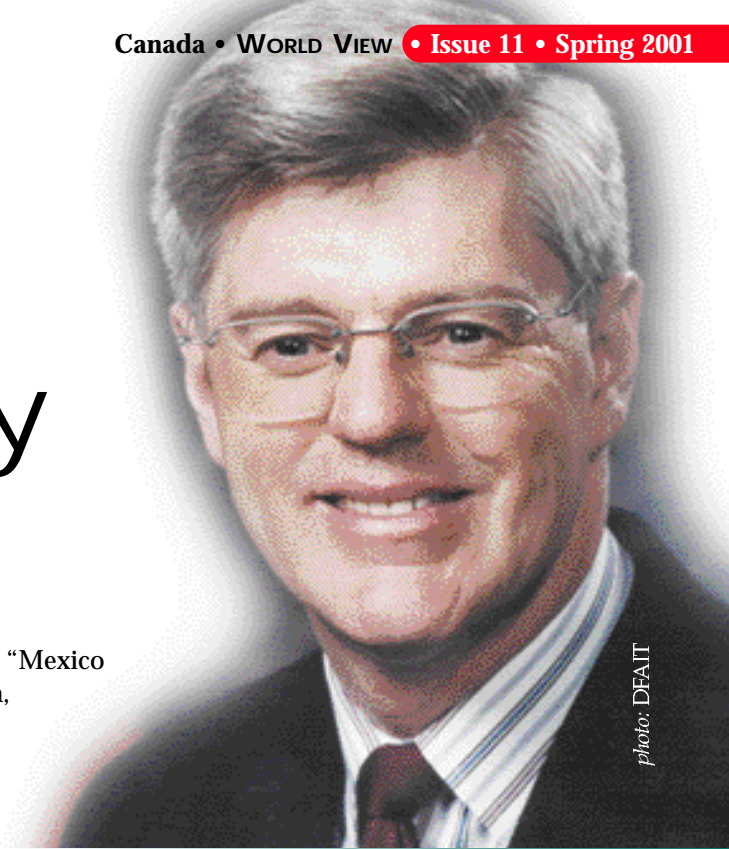
He insists that he is not abandoning the human security agenda put in place by his predecessor, Lloyd Axworthy. Instead he says, "Humanitarianism and promoting Canada's economic prosperity are intertwined. The broader human security agenda is an essential part of economic relations. You can't have an economic relationship with a country where human security is not assured. That includes the rule of law and a functioning legal system. I see them as tied together."

What cause might he want to champion during his tenure at Foreign Affairs? He replies, "Using communications technology to help connect the developing world and bridge the 'digital divide' by transferring some of our know-how to the world. The Internet is going to be the great tool for transferring information and values in the 21st century. Canada can play a role in seeing that it's extended to everybody on the planet."

# meet

Foreign Affairs Minister

## John Manley



## Relationships with neighbours and the world

Newly inaugurated U.S. President George W. Bush has a strong interest in Mexico: he was governor of the southern border state of Texas, speaks Spanish and knows President Vicente Fox personally. The result is that many political commentators are questioning the future of the Canada-U.S. relationship.

John Manley recognizes that when President Bush thinks of the border, he probably thinks of the U.S.-Mexican frontier. But that need not worry us, says the Minister: "The fact remains that Canada is still the United States' largest trading partner and that many Cabinet secretaries, including my counterpart Colin Powell, know Canada well." He adds, "Managing our bilateral relationship is at the top of my agenda." The trade relationship is worth US\$1 billion a day. That makes it a top concern for Mr. Manley, along with defence issues and international affairs.

Another priority is enhancing and strengthening Canada's relationship with

Mexico. The Minister notes, "Mexico is a vital partner for Canada, whether at the economic level, the trade level or the hemispheric policy level. Ten years from now, Mexico will be the United States' largest trading partner and a major powerhouse in hemispheric affairs. We must develop our relations with Mexico, which is now our third-largest trading partner, in order to further advance our interests in the Americas as well as on the international stage. And these interests include the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, human rights in the Hemisphere and the fight against illicit trade in drugs."

John Manley also wants to enhance Canada's relations with the G-8 member countries, as well as China and India. Multilateral institutions, he says, will continue to be important partners in

Canada's international relations—including the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Organization of American States and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Among issues that will draw the Minister's attention are globalization, the environment, the international fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, and the human security agenda.

Happy in his new portfolio, John Manley intends to leave his imprint on Canada's foreign policy. "Foreign Affairs is an exciting challenge," he says. "I am looking forward to making my modest contribution to a more peaceful and prosperous world." ●



Mexican President Vicente Fox shakes hands with Foreign Affairs Minister Manley, left, after a private meeting in Mexico City, January 2001.

" Humanitarianism and promoting Canada's economic prosperity are intertwined.

The broader human security agenda is

an essential part of economic relations....

I see them as tied together."



# Marc Lortie

"Part of our commitment to a **successful Summit** is to engage all sectors of **Canadian society** in becoming aware of **our place in the Hemisphere.**"



"**S**herpas" have a crucial role in the lead-up to any summit. Like the legendary guides who help explorers conquer Himalayan peaks, diplomatic sherpas lay out the path to productive consensus among leaders at a summit meeting.

On the upward climb to Québec City's Summit of the Americas, Marc Lortie is Canada's Sherpa and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's personal representative. He is accustomed to

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien confers with International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew (left) and Marc Lortie (centre), the PM's personal representative for the 2001 Summit of the Americas, before the Canada-Central America Heads of Government meeting in Guatemala City, September 2000.

## PROFILES IN DIPLOMACY

Mapping the path to a successful summit

Organizing the 2001 Summit of the Americas is quite a challenge. Many elements have to come together smoothly; the leaders who attend have to be able to focus on priorities and getting results. Only then

previous summits and that address the daily concerns of our fellow citizens of the Americas."

Marc Lortie's extensive contacts with civil society groups have been an important element in his work, reflecting Canada's commitment to an open, inclusive Summit process. He is proud of the dialogue and openness that have marked the preparatory discussions.

"Part of our commitment to a successful Summit is to engage all sectors of Canadian society in becoming aware of our place in the Hemisphere," he notes. "I took it as a priority to meet with as many groups as possible to help achieve that goal, and to listen to their concerns. I am very pleased that we have been open to their views and that we have been able to bring them up to date on what the Summit can achieve for all citizens of the Hemisphere. We may not agree on every point, of course, but the dialogue has helped our government, these groups and the Summit itself." ●—



will the Summit be productive. Major efforts are under way to see that it is, and to ensure that it sets the stage for progress on key issues. And playing central parts are two of Canada's diplomats.

"**T**he Third Summit of the Americas will reinforce the progress that countries throughout the Hemisphere have made on their shared commitments to stronger democracies and stronger economies," says Peter Boehm. "The prospects for enhanced hemispheric co-operation are highly promising." He certainly ought to know: since 1997 he has been Canada's Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), and currently he is also National Co-ordinator for the 2001 Summit of the Americas process.

At the OAS, Ambassador Boehm has sought consensus on common approaches, particularly during his time as President of the OAS Permanent Council last October to December. Along the way he has highlighted Canadian priorities such as human rights and democratic development, and civil society involvement in OAS initiatives. In the past year, Peter Boehm was appointed Canada's Special Ministerial Envoy to Peru; in that capacity he contributed to the successful OAS mission that helped Peru strengthen its democratic system.

# Peter Boehm

Ambassador Boehm and his counterparts from other countries are **defining the issues** to be discussed by the leaders, and **identifying action plans** on which they **might reach consensus.**



Ever since Canada was chosen to host the Third Summit of the Americas, Ambassador Boehm has worked with other participating governments, mapping out the way to build on the achievements of the 1994 summit in Miami and the 1998 summit in Santiago, Chile. He and his counterparts from other countries are defining the issues to be discussed by the leaders, and identifying action plans on which they might reach consensus.

At the OAS, Peter Boehm has been able to draw on his extensive experience, especially in Latin American and Caribbean issues. He joined Canada's Foreign Service while finishing a PhD in history at the University of Edinburgh, and served in Canada's embassies in

Havana and in San José, Costa Rica. He has also held the post of Director of DFAIT's South America and Inter-American Division. In 1992 he received a Canadian Foreign Service Award recognizing his role in developing peace plans in Central America while in San José.

The Ambassador is equally experienced in the task of organizing summits. He was Canada's Co-ordinator for the G-7 and G-8 Summits in Naples in 1994, and in Halifax in 1995. In 1998 he was policy adviser to Prime Minister Chrétien for the Santiago Summit of the Americas. ●—



# focus on People at the Québec Summit



Carlos Castillo, age 4, sits before a banner that reads "Misery" and "Exploitation," in front of the National Congress building in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, December 10, 1996. The occasion was a demonstration marking the International Day of Human Rights.

**T**he first two Summits of the Americas showed how much hemispheric leaders can achieve. Miami and Santiago left a valuable legacy: a substantial base of co-operation and dialogue. Both summits enhanced the sense of shared values. Now countries of the Hemisphere have the opportunity to build on past successes, address shared challenges and identify people-centred priorities for action.

## Defining the issues

During the OAS General Assembly last June in Windsor, Ontario, foreign ministers met to start defining topics for

discussion at the Québec Summit. Since then, the Summit Implementation Review Group has held several meetings to prepare for Québec 2001. They have identified three overarching themes for Summit discussions: strengthening democracy, creating prosperity and realizing human potential. All three will be explicitly mentioned in the Declaration, and they will provide the framework for practical initiatives under the Plan of Action. Alongside the three themes, leaders will look at connectivity issues—in other words, how to harness new information and communications technologies for the benefit of people in all walks of life.

The themes of strengthening democracy and promoting economic integration have been central to the Summit process ever since Miami. The third theme of realizing human potential reflects the growing importance of social issues in the Summit process. It emphasizes inclusion. That means bringing all citizens—women, children and youth, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and others—into the political, economic and social mainstream of hemispheric society.

## Strengthening democracy

Across the Hemisphere, free and fair elections—once rare occurrences—are now commonplace events. The past decade has seen much further progress in developing democratic systems. There have been occasional challenges and temporary setbacks, but they have merely shown how strongly entrenched democracy is in the Americas today. Look, for example, at how the OAS helped Peru deal with a crisis to that country's democracy in 2000.

At the **Third Summit of the Americas**, the **focus will be on people**. The aim is for leaders attending the Summit to endorse a Declaration and a Plan of Action relevant to the real concerns of **citizens throughout the Hemisphere**. The leaders are determined to meet expectations by adopting a coherent agenda for **co-operation on political, economic and social issues**.

Hemispheric leaders know that elections are only a start in strengthening democracy, and that many states still need to consolidate the progress made so far. The Summit will provide an opportunity for discussion of practical, effective ways to reinforce the other elements of an open, democratic environment. On the agenda are measures that would provide more support for member states to promote and protect human rights, and to apply the rule of law consistently.

To be considered are ways to make government institutions more transparent and responsive in their dealings with citizens. Leaders will ponder how to nurture national and regional institutions, especially those that support human rights or promote gender equality. They will examine how to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and minorities of African descent—a step that is vital to creating more democratic societies. The intention is to take democratization to the practical level.

Respect for the rule of law is at the heart of all democracies. Along with constructing the framework for a democratic political system, countries are seeking to improve their administration of justice. The search is under way for practical measures that would help make judicial systems more impartial and independent. By co-operating on upgrading their legal and judicial systems, states can demonstrate their shared commitment to democratic values.

Leaders coming to Québec City have a growing awareness of the role of civil society in any democratic environment. They appreciate that strengthening democracy goes beyond developing the institutions of government and the legal system. Strong democracies depend on vibrant civil societies,



At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, 114 heads of state pose for a group photo.

where people come together in community organizations and in groups based on shared interests and values.

Summit participants are committed to engaging and increasing the capacity of civil society. A key question is how states can work together to support the emergence of independent voices across the Americas. Leaders will look at measures that encourage communities and groups to further democracy together.

## Creating prosperity

The Summit process has always emphasized the value of reducing barriers to trade. Much work has already been carried out to reach an agreement on creating a Free Trade

• cont'd on page 10



Refugee camp of Pavarando, about 500 miles north of Bogotá, Colombia. Thousands of peasants have fled here to escape from violence between leftist guerrillas, right-wing paramilitary fighters and the military.



Holding her child, a mother drops her vote into a ballot box at a Mexico City polling station during presidential elections last July.



Four-year-old Edel Ruiz collects trash from a basket in La Chureca dump in Managua, Nicaragua, in February 2000. To earn an average of \$2.00 to \$3.00 dollars a day, hundreds of people work at the dump sifting through trash in search of glass and paper for recycling. They enlist the help of their children.



Thousands of dissidents disappeared after arrest during the 1970s and 1980s, when Chile was under military rule. In August 2000, relatives hold their portraits in a celebration outside the Supreme Court in Santiago. The Court had stripped former President Augusto Pinochet of his immunity, clearing the way for him to be tried on human rights charges.



• cont'd from page 9

Area of the Americas (FTAA) by 2005. But leaders know that people expect national economic growth to lead directly to enhanced quality of life.

The challenge is to match moves toward economic integration with measures that address the social dimensions of closer trade relations. To do that, leaders are taking action on a number of fronts. A top item for consideration at the Summit will be the extensive work now under way to deal with labour and environmental issues in parallel with the FTAA.

Labour ministers now co-operate on labour standards, working conditions and more. All governments in the Americas are committed to meeting many international labour standards. They are laying the foundation for still more joint action in future.

Hemispheric co-operation on the environment has also grown. At earlier meetings, leaders have supported shared action on the many environmental challenges with international impact. They know that they can reduce and end trade barriers while at the same time controlling pollution.

In the Plan of Action expected to be endorsed at the Summit, the agenda for creating prosperity complements the agenda for strengthening democracy. That complementarity will be evident in discussions on how to translate the benefits of economic growth into improvements in the lives of all citizens. Much thought is going into possible initiatives to help bring more prosperity to poor people—especially Indigenous peoples, rural workers and other groups that are often economically disadvantaged.



A pelican tries to remove diesel fuel from its wings after a spill from an oil tanker in the Galápagos Islands of Ecuador.

Another issue with both political and economic ramifications is corporate social responsibility—something OAS members agreed to encourage at the Windsor General Assembly in 2000. The Summit could build on that start by promoting discussions on the topic between representatives of business, international financial institutions and civil society.

## Realizing human potential

The Santiago Summit was notable for making progress on issues such as health and education. The Québec Summit will go further, putting the spotlight on a hemispheric social agenda promoting inclusion.

The social agenda must address two important factors. First, it must ensure attention to the needs of a wide range of groups throughout the Hemisphere. Too often women, Indigenous peoples, children, youth and other groups are not fully included in the life of their societies, and cannot benefit significantly from freer trade. The social agenda must seek to open doors for them.

Second, sound social investments reinforce democracy and the economy. Evidence from many countries shows that individuals, societies and economies can best realize their potential when people enjoy good health and have the skills to make the most of political freedom and economic opportunities. Healthy, highly skilled populations tend to be more economically productive and better able to exercise and protect democratic freedoms and human rights.



Rigoberta Menchu of Guatemala answers questions at a press conference in New York in 1999. A Mayan Indian, Menchu won the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize for her work on behalf of Indigenous people.

Québec will carry forward the progress made at previous Summits. In Santiago, for example, leaders recognized education as “the key to progress” and identified areas for action. In addition, with the support of the Pan American Health Organization, governments have begun working together more effectively to address hemispheric health priorities. Other themes of past Summits have been fighting poverty and discrimination.

At the Third Summit, leaders will consider how to expand access to education and improve educational quality—action they all recognize is needed. They know as well the importance of upgrading skills development. The problem has been to come up with the funding.

On health issues, countries across the Americas have made impressive strides. But as in education, health systems face financial pressures. The Summit is expected to give priority to cost-effective innovations for preventing disease and promoting healthier living.

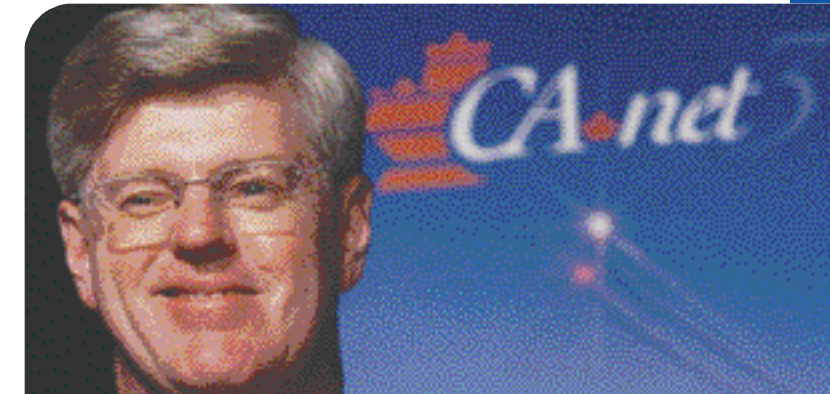
Another core social objective of the Summit is the inclusion of all groups in society. Leaders will examine how to support gender equality and encourage greater participation by Indigenous peoples and youth in social, economic and political life.

Still another priority is cultural diversity. The cultures in our Hemisphere draw their vitality from extremely varied roots. That diversity must continue to flourish. There is widespread concern about the cultural impacts of new information and communications technologies. Leaders may consider ways of linking and strengthening cultures to maintain their diversity and strength.

## Connectivity

Canada strongly favours discussion of information and communications technologies at the Summit. The idea is to look at ways of using these technologies to achieve common political, economic and social goals, and to make the technologies accessible to all.

In every country of the Hemisphere, citizens, government and business are putting the new technologies to work. Individuals and civil society groups with common interests are collaborating via the Internet. Many kinds of health and education services are being delivered through communications technologies. Governments are providing information and services to the public, and even looking for



In August 1998, then Industry Minister John Manley announces an initiative to build CA\*net 3—the world's first national optical Internet network.

ways to use the technologies for dialogue with citizens. Businesses are reaching out to new markets and modernizing operations.

Those innovations are only the start but at least they show areas where collaboration can pay off. One priority at the Summit will be access to new technologies. Some commentators have decried a widening gap between people and societies that use these technologies and those that do not. To meet those concerns, leaders will discuss how to make technologies more widely available, particularly to members of groups that may be marginalized. They will examine how to help people acquire the skills enabling them to understand and use new technologies effectively. ●—



A boy carries a bag of gleanings from trash near his home in Cité Soleil, the poorest neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Beside the tin shacks of the neighbourhood are piles of human and animal waste and garbage.



William Cabrera, age 12, and Roger Palacio, age 10, sit together in their Grade 3 classroom at a public school in Managua, Nicaragua. An acute shortage of desks forces tens of thousands of children to attend class standing up, sitting on the floor or sharing a desk with a schoolmate.



In June 1996, Montréal hosted 2500 cybersurfers from 140 countries at INet—an international conference sponsored by the Internet Society. Discussions covered topics ranging from technical advances to philosophical questions.



High school teacher Stephen MacKinnon, right, explains the Internet to some of his students in Athens, Ontario, in August 1999. As the Information Age shifts into overdrive, the Internet is revolutionizing the way people learn.





More than ever today, young Canadians are outward-looking. They travel the world, do internships abroad, study in foreign institutions, enrol in exchange programs, and participate in mock parliaments and international assemblies.

### Model assemblies

Canadians currently have a high profile at the Model Organization of American States General Assembly (MOAS). For this mock parliament, students from 34 democracies in the Hemisphere form delegations, representing a country other than their own. They follow the rules and procedures of the OAS, tabling resolutions and debating issues.

The Model Assembly was set up two decades ago, and its annual sessions were held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. Last year, however, marked a fresh departure: member countries now take turns hosting the Assembly, and in 2000 the first turn was Canada's. The city of Edmonton welcomed the participants from all over

To see the world, and your own country, through the eyes of another nation—a unique learning experience



OAS Secretary-General César Gaviria and officers elected in Edmonton for the 2001 Model OAS General Assembly: President Camila Indig Alves of Brazil, Secretary-General David Gamache-Hutchison and Assistant Secretary-General Kevin De Souza.

# Youth in the Americas Canadians make their mark

the Americas, and two young Canadians were elected to key positions.

**David Gamache-Hutchison** is a 24-year-old postgraduate student at the University of Alberta, working toward a master's degree in political science with a focus on Canadian foreign policy.

He headed the University of Alberta's delegation representing Mexico in the 2000 MOAS, and he was elected Secretary-General for the 2001 Assembly in Argentina.

David says it was a unique learning experience to promote and defend the international policies of another country, and "to see the world, and your own country, through the eyes of another nation." The process worked not only at the podium but in the hall. Seated in the Assembly beside the Canadians representing Mexico were Brazilians representing Canada. "It was interesting to hear a Brazilian interpretation of Canadian politics and foreign policy," says David, "and they were able to tap us for pointers on Canada's relationship with Mexico."

Encountering students from all over the Hemisphere was equally rewarding: "People from disparate backgrounds met and many friendships were made. I gained a great respect and admiration for the people of the Caribbean and Latin America."

David is proud to be the first Canadian to serve as MOAS Secretary-General, and proud as well to be on the team going from Canada and the University of Alberta to the 2001 MOAS in Argentina. He says, "I have been entrusted with a tremendous opportunity to help build communication, connectivity and co-operation among the young leaders of the Americas."

A 21-year-old naval cadet at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, **Kevin De Souza** was a member of the delegation representing Argentina in Edmonton. He'll get to see the real thing this year when he goes to Argentina to serve as Assistant Secretary-General for the 2001 MOAS. And with him he'll bring a fund of useful knowledge about the host country and the Hemisphere.

After the Edmonton Assembly, Kevin visited Central America to sharpen his Spanish. He lived with a Mayan family in Guatemala, and spent two weeks backpacking there and in El Salvador and Honduras. After his annual navy training, he worked as an intern at the Canadian Embassy in Buenos Aires.

The advantage of MOAS role-playing, he says "is that you get to view problems

and issues from a completely different perspective than what you had been used to. Until you walk a mile in someone's shoes you can never fully understand the challenges they face in their everyday lives."

Will the MOAS experience influence Kevin's career choices? "This has exposed me to a whole new world of international relations, particularly the relationship between North and South America. It has piqued my interest; we'll see where it leads."

DFAIT supports two other inter-national mock parliaments:

- UN Model Assemblies annually bring together 3000 students from throughout the world. Last year, 225 Canadian students participated in the event at United Nations headquarters. They were welcomed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and met with then Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and officials of the Canadian Permanent Mission to the UN.
- Québec-Europe is a simulation of the Parliament of the European Union, conducted in French and English. Launched in 1998, it alternates annually between Canada and Europe. Participating this year are students from 5 Quebec universities, the University of Ottawa and 15 European universities. DFAIT is the principal partner and funder, with other support coming from the Quebec National Assembly and the European Parliament.

### Internships: path to success

At the start of 2001, a total of 76 young Canadians were on assignment on Americas-related issues in Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States under the Youth International Internship Program, or YIIP.

The experience is challenging and rewarding. Says YIIP manager Jennifer Barbarie, interns have the satisfaction of making a useful contribution—and more: "They have the opportunity to enhance their future employability, and improve their language skills and understanding of Latin culture."

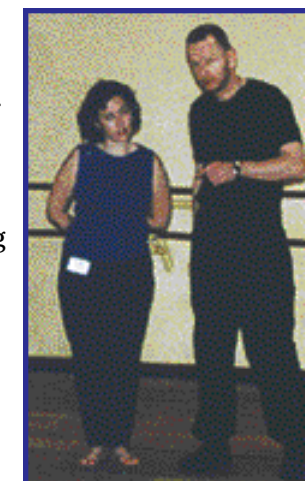
The interns are assigned to NGOs, governments, international organizations and companies across the spectrum of foreign affairs and international co-operation. Their tasks include work in education, legal support for human rights, drug control, tourism development and marine park management.

International internships are delivered by DFAIT, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the federal departments of Environment, Human Resources Development, Industry and Canadian Heritage.

For **Carolina Irigoyen**, a YIIP assignment has led straight to the career she had hoped for. As recently as 1999, she spent her days in a bank, processing reports on stolen credit cards. It paid the bills but hardly drew on Carolina's university training in fine arts and arts administration.

Carolina now manages three arts programs for ArtStarts, a non-profit organization that supports education in the visual and performing arts in British Columbia. This is a job she loves.

What gave her the breakthrough was an internship in arts administration in Mexico, with the Vancouver-based Canadian Institute of the Arts for Young Audiences. Carolina learned about the position from a newspaper ad, applied and was accepted. About the time she returned to Vancouver, ArtStarts asked the Institute to recommend someone with experience. The rest is history. ●



Carolina Irigoyen observes Guy Holland of Quicksilver Theatre, U.K., leading an actors' training workshop.

For more information on the Youth International Internship Program, visit: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/interns>



# Canada and the Hemisphere

*An ever-closer relationship*

*In the last two decades the southern part of the Hemisphere has changed beyond recognition, and so has Canada's relationship with it. Twenty years ago democracy was a scarce item in Latin American countries; today it is the rule.*

*The era when Canada steered clear of hemispheric ties is a fading memory. Since 1990 it has been a member of the Organization of American States, and it is a free-trade partner of Mexico and the United States (through the North American Free Trade Agreement) and of Chile (through a bilateral accord). Last year, the OAS General Assembly met in Windsor, Ontario. This year, Québec City hosts the Summit of the Americas.*

*Canada and its hemispheric neighbours together fight illicit drugs, money laundering, illegal trafficking in firearms and threats to human rights. They also run joint demining programs. Countries of the region were among the first and most resolute supporters of the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines.*

*Meanwhile, economic ties have been expanding rapidly. Merchandise trade rose by nearly 200 percent in the last decade alone. Canadian investments in Latin America and the Caribbean now total \$32 billion. And Canada is playing an important part in the negotiations to form a Free Trade Area of the Americas. This would be the largest free trade area in the world, uniting 800 million people in one market.*



photo: IDC

International Datacasting President Ron Clifton with computer teacher Norberto Arturo García Robledo at the Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz elementary school in rural Mexico. The school uses IDC technology to receive videos and data from the Instituto Latinoamericano de la Comunicación Educativa.

## Leaping the technological gap

In the race to the new economy, Latin America is jumping ahead—and Ottawa-based International Datacasting Corporation (IDC) is helping it. Ask IDC President Ron Clifton which part of the world offers the most exciting opportunities for Canadian technology. He answers without hesitation, “Latin America, because of its incredible connectivity needs.”

Determined to become global competitors, Latin American countries are acquiring the skills and infrastructure of the knowledge-based economy, notes Clifton. “They want to leapfrog older technologies,” he says. “They are in the market for advanced, innovative solutions.”

IDC has what they need. Operating on a global scale, the company produces and integrates hardware and software systems that can pump huge amounts of data up to satellites at very high speed and receive them at the other end. The systems are capable of pulling together into a single broadband stream as many as 8000 channels of data,

video and broadcast-quality television, for delivery to the other side of the world.

IDC's Latin American clients use the systems to reach isolated rural communities not wired for telephone services. The technology provides access to distance education, training in the skills of the knowledge economy, and the great equalizer of the Internet.

Among IDC's customers in the region:

- Mexico's prestigious Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) is a powerhouse of learning for all of Latin America, and a distance education pioneer. Since 1999, ITESM has been using IDC systems to distribute its virtual university programs throughout the region. In November 2000, ITESM chose IDC to supply encryption systems for its customized programming to corporate clients.
- Instituto Latinoamericano de la Comunicación Educativa is an international organization using IDC systems to deliver Internet data, streaming video, video on demand and multimedia to schools across Mexico, even those without telephone lines.
- Telefónica Mundo, Chile's telephone service, recently hired IDC to provide datacasting systems for Internet connectivity and new satellite-based distance learning programs throughout Chile.

Like many Canadians, Clifton grew up in a home with one English- and one French-speaking parent. That, he says, taught him to be at ease in bilingual situations, and he has learned enough Spanish and Portuguese to do business in both.

Feeling at home with cultural diversity, he maintains, is another market asset for Canadians: “Based on my experience over the years, I would say that Latin Americans see Canadians as a culturally and linguistically aware people. Other things being equal, that can be an important advantage.”

photo: CANAPRESS

## Women on the Net: Making things happen in Suriname

“At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, Caribbean women shone,” says Vanda Radzick, co-ordinator of the Canadian International Development Agency's Gender Equity Fund in Guyana. “But it became very clear to us that we were seriously under-resourced. Many of us did not even have computers and none of us had access to the Internet.”







For a movement that puts a high priority on transforming attitudes and perceptions, not being able to communicate or access information was a serious handicap. But that was about to change.

Through the CIDAfund, now known as the Gender Equality Program (GEP), each Caribbean government's women's bureau received a computer, software and access to the Internet; and the United Nations Development Fund for Women supplied a manual and training in the new technology. The objectives were to improve communication between bureaus, and to establish information resource centres on gender and development for the benefit of government and non-governmental agencies.

"The Internet enables me to download all kinds of information on gender issues," says Betty Cederboom, who became co-ordinator and head of the National Gender Bureau of Suriname in 1999. "Since I was new on the job, I had a lot of reading to do. I got most of my knowledge on gender from the Internet."

She quickly put that knowledge to work. Guided by information on the roles and tasks of national women's bureaus in other countries, she reorganized her office. With quick access to information and data, she found it easy to write reports and process information requests. Now she can alert colleagues to upcoming events, key issues and a wide variety of information resources. With support from the GEP, she is drafting Suriname's first national gender mainstreaming action plan based, she says, "on a model from Canada which I found on the Net."

One of Betty's jobs is to produce Suriname's national report discussing how the country is implementing the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women. The GEP also funded that report, drafted by a local NGO for the government. The Internet enabled Betty to do research, participate in the work of drafting, and organize a workshop and conference on the topic. This year's report, now under consideration by the government, has already led to the establishment of a special committee to review all laws that discriminate against women.



Passers-by before a mosque in Paramaribo, capital of Suriname. The country's population includes descendants of African, Indian, Javanese and Chinese immigrants.

After the August 2000 elections in Suriname, the Internet helped cement government-NGO relations. Betty's office prepared a policy statement on gender equality for the new government, and submitted it to the NGO community for comment via the Internet. The final consensus-based draft was then presented to the minister responsible. Later, NGOs met with the President of Suriname and presented a document outlining their concerns—after sharing the paper with Betty's office.

The Internet and e-mail have made a difference on the ground, helping both government and civil society raise public awareness of gender issues. When the National Olympic Committee ran into difficulty organizing its annual walk to combat poverty, Betty's office decided to help by combining the event with the World March of Women. Again, the Net provided all the information needed. Betty convinced the Olympic Committee to make violence against women one of the themes of the walk, and she helped obtain funding from the UN Development Programme.

Her office used the Internet to co-ordinate the participation of local NGOs—for instance, by arranging media interviews. As it turned out, there was a lot to talk about. On October 14, the day of the five-kilometre walk, Suriname devalued its currency and prices rose for consumer necessities, such as gas and bread. This was a strategic opportunity to increase awareness of poverty and gender equality; and with the new technology provided by CIDA, Betty and her partners were able to take advantage of it.

Betty Cederboom is unequivocal in her praise of this new information and communications tool. "The Internet is the answer to almost all my questions," she says. "It has strengthened our bureau. It makes our work easier." ●

At F.W. Johnson Collegiate in Regina, student Vanessa Klassen shows Prime Minister Jean Chrétien how to use SchoolNet, a public-private partnership connecting Canadian schools and libraries to the Internet.

photos: CANAPRESS

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

CANADA'S

IDRC in the AMERICAS

SINCE 1970,  
CANADA'S  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
RESEARCH CENTRE  
(IDRC)  
HAS HELPED  
RESEARCHERS AND  
COMMUNITIES IN THE  
DEVELOPING WORLD  
FIND SOLUTIONS TO  
THEIR SOCIAL,  
ECONOMIC AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROBLEMS. HERE ARE  
A FEW EXAMPLES  
OF IDRC'S WORK  
IN THE AMERICAS.

ON LINE IN REMOTE PERU

In an open grass hut where the Peruvian Andes meet the Amazon jungle, an unlikely sight heralds a revolution: a computer on a rough plank table, displaying Web pages. The computer is owned by the Asháninka people of the village of Marankiari Bajo, and it connects to the Internet via high-powered radio. At 400 kilometres from Lima, the tiny Indigenous community is remote yet in touch with the world. Perhaps more important to the villagers, the computer allows them to network with other Asháninka communities nearby. Until recently, they didn't even have telephones.

The Asháninka do not regard the Internet as the spearhead of a cultural invasion from the North. Instead, they have seized upon it as a tool for

reinforcing and perpetuating their own culture, and for building a larger sense of community purpose among the 400-odd Asháninka villages scattered across South America.

With help from the IDRC, the villagers are exploring how to use the Internet for their economic advantage. For instance, the Internet helps them choose the best time to take their produce to market in Lima. Before setting out from their villages they now know whether market prices are good, and consequently their economic standing has improved. The Internet also opens opportunities for strategic alliances not only with nearby communities but with First Nations around the world.

photo: Ricardo Gomez, IDRC





• cont'd from page 19

NETWORKING  
FOR ACADEMICS AND  
ACTIVISTS

A community that is part collaborative, part co-operative, part think tank, part utopian experiment, and all virtual: that's a rough description of the MISTICA project. An acronym for Methodology and Social Impact of Information and Communication Technologies in America, MISTICA puts digital communication to work to foster a human community.

MISTICA is officially named the Samana Network, after the city in the Dominican Republic that hosted its first meeting. It attempts to integrate information and communications resources, overcome language barriers in real time, and allow people to attend meetings on line. The network is sponsored jointly by the IDRC and the Swiss-based Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humankind. Implementing MISTICA (with help from other partners in the region) is the Networks and Development Foundation

(Fundación Redes y Desarrollo), which has promoted information and communications technology for regional development in Latin America and the Caribbean since 1988. The two-year project's main objective is to use Internet technology in order to nurture a network of Latin American and Caribbean academics and social activists, helping them become more effective. Community members post messages on the Web site in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese, as they prefer; and computer translation provides versions in the other three languages. The machine translations aren't perfect but they're fairly fast, allowing the near-immediate exchange of ideas. Most of the participants in this promising project are from Argentina, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Canada and the United States, with others from throughout South America and one user in Africa.

FIGHTING  
MERCURY POISONING  
IN THE AMAZON

People living in the Amazon suffer from the effects of mercury ingested by eating contaminated fish. For years, mercury used in gold mining was thought to be the sole cause of the contamination. Then an IDRC-funded team of Brazilian and Canadian researchers took a fresh look at the problem. To their surprise, they found another, unexpected source of mercury in the environment.

Mercury contamination (methylmercury) attacks the nervous system and the brain. Symptoms include numbness of limbs and the area around the mouth, muscle weakness, an unsteady gait, tunnel vision, slurred speech, hearing loss, and abnormal behaviour such as sudden fits of laughter. More severe poisoning may lead to general paralysis, difficulty in swallowing, convulsions and death. Mercury also cripples neural development in fetuses, and passes much more readily into the brains of young children than those of adults.

Concerned about its effects on human health in the Amazon, in 1994 scientists from Brazil's Universidad Federal do Pará in Belém and the Université du Québec à Montréal teamed up to explore the problem further. Their focus was Brazil's Tapajós River, where thousands of miners have panned for gold in the last 30 years. The team's initial research revealed the first surprise: Levels of mercury contamination were constant all along the Tapajós River, even hundreds of kilometres downstream from gold-mining operations. To find out why, IDRC provided additional funding to the team.

Lab test for mercury levels, village of Cometa, Brazil



Scientists collected sediment cores all along the river and measured mercury levels at every half-centimetre in each core. The most recent layers of sediment contained 1.5 to 3.0 times as much mercury as layers deposited 40 years ago, even 400 kilometres downstream from the mines. Further examination along the river bank revealed higher mercury concentrations in surface soils. The team's conclusion: the cause of mercury release from the soil was the cutting and burning of trees along the river banks, something that began 40 years ago.

Once the land is deforested, rain washes soil from the top of the banks into the river—along with mercury, which naturally accumulated in the soils for up to 100 000 years. Some areas along the Tapajós River have lost as much as 15 centimetres of surface soil. This process may largely explain the mercury increase in newly colonized watersheds of the Amazon.

photos: Jean Lebel, IDRC

Because the Amazonian ecosystem is very complex, more research is needed to develop a complete picture of how mercury behaves in this environment. In the short term, the focus is on diet. The local people derive much of their protein from fish, but fortunately for them, reducing exposure to mercury does not mean giving up this food source. There are more than 40 fish species in the river, each with varying amounts of mercury contamination. For instance, herbivorous or plant-eating fish contain very little mercury, while predatory fish contain the most and omnivorous fish fall in between. Similarly, people who predominantly eat herbivorous fish were found to have less mercury in their system than those who eat more predatory fish. A surprise finding was that the juveniles of some species contained more mercury than the adults.

The investigation into the cause of mercury contamination in the Amazon is one of many projects being funded under IDRC's "Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health" initiative. The goal is to improve human health by supporting trans-disciplinary research examining the structure and function of stressed ecosystems on which people depend for their lives and livelihoods. The knowledge gained can then be used to develop actions and policies that enhance ecosystem management. And that in turn will improve human health and well-being, while simultaneously maintaining or improving the health of ecosystems as a whole.

INSECTICIDE  
DANGERS IN  
ECUADOR

Canadian and Latin American researchers have found that potato farmers in Ecuador's Carchi province suffer from decreased mental capacity as a result of heavy exposure to chemical insecticides. The scientists have documented how exposure affects the farmers' decision-making abilities, leading to lower productivity.

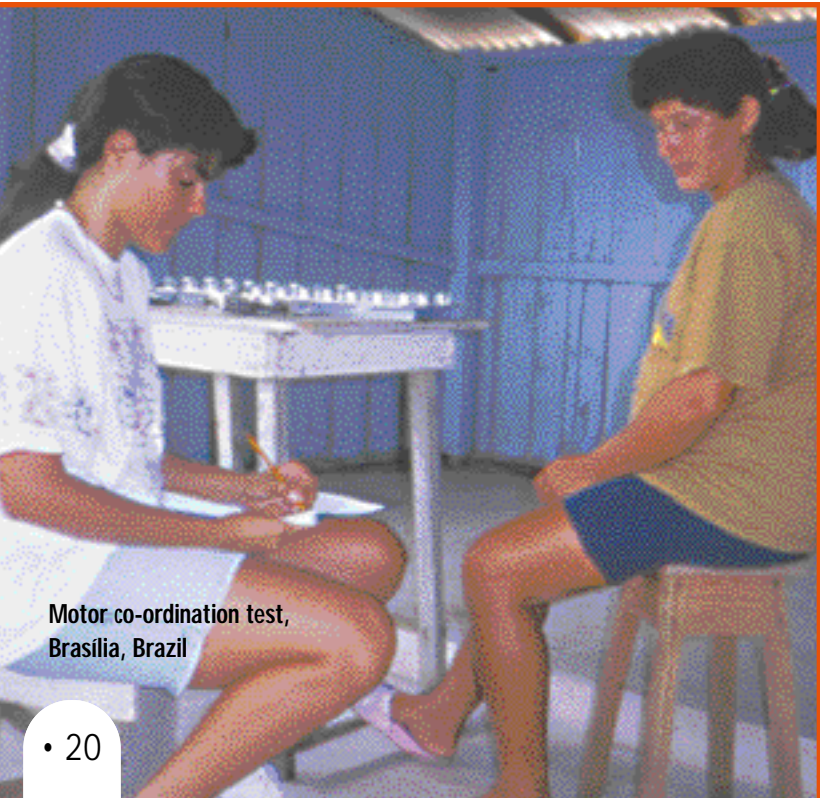
Carchi's 8000 commercial growers produce 40 percent of Ecuador's potato crop. Common here are mixed potato-and-dairy farms, which are among the country's heaviest pesticide consumers. An average of seven times during the crop growth period, farm workers wearing pesticide-filled backpacks fan out through the fields and spray the chemicals, using up to 43 active ingredients. Contributing to their health problems are direct skin contact with the pesticides, leaky sprayers and a lack of

protective clothing. The researchers found a pesticide poisoning rate of 171 per 100 000 people, on a par with the highest rates recorded elsewhere in the developing world. Donald Cole is a physician-researcher at McMaster University's Institute of Environment and Health, located in Hamilton, Ontario. He says, "Exposure to insecticides and fungicides has harmful effects—neurological and skin-related—on the health of Carchi's rural population, and health disorders undermine farmers' ability to make efficient farming decisions."

The study is part of a larger project jointly funded by the IDRC, the Rockefeller

Foundation and other donors, with the aim of reducing pesticide use and related health problems among potato farmers in Carchi. Involving scientists from many research institutions, the project is led by researchers from McMaster University and the Peru-based International Potato Center. Donald Cole recently gave a lecture tour of Canada to present the researchers' findings. Along with this, he had a further objective: to promote awareness and discussion of an ecosystem approach to human health, based on the premise that the health of human populations depends on healthy, sustainable ecosystems. ●

For more information about these and other projects, visit the IDRC Web site (<http://www.idrc.ca>) and click on Reports, IDRC's e-zine on science from the developing world.



Motor co-ordination test, Brasília, Brazil



Kids everywhere love french fries. But potato farmers in Ecuador's Carchi province have discovered the hidden cost.



# Participants at

# THE SUMMIT OF THE Americas

Thirty-four countries are taking part

in the Summit of the Americas in Québec City. In these pages, *Canada World View* offers an overview of each country and a short profile of its leader. For more information, visit:

<http://www.AmericasCanada.org>

All monetary amounts are in U.S. dollars unless otherwise indicated.

GDP = gross domestic product

Sources:  
Market reports, Canadian Trade Commissioner Service  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
Department of Finance



## Antigua and Barbuda



**Population**  
70 200 (1999 est.)

**Capital of Antigua**  
Saint John's

**Capital of Barbuda**  
Codrington

**Total area**  
440 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
November 1

**Currency**  
East Caribbean dollar

**GDP**  
\$629.6 million (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$2420 (1996)

**Canadian exports**  
\$11.4 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$400 000 (1999)

**Head of government:**  
Prime Minister Lester B. **Bird**

Born February 21, 1938. Elected chairman of the Antigua Labour Party in 1971. Served as a senator and as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate until 1976. Held a number of portfolios from 1976 to 1994, including Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister. First elected Prime Minister in March 1994; re-elected in 1999.



## Argentina



**Population**  
37 million (2000 est.)

**Capital**  
Buenos Aires

**Total area**  
2 766 880 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National days**  
May 25 (1810 Revolution Day)  
July 9 (Independence Day)

**Currency**  
peso

**GDP**  
\$285 billion (2000 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$6391 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$211 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$304 million (1999)

**Head of state and government:**  
President Fernando **de la Rúa**

Born September 15, 1937. A lawyer by profession, he joined the Radical Civic Union, serving as an adviser to the Ministry of the Interior during the presidency of Dr. Arturo Illia (1963–66). First elected senator for the Federal Capital in 1973. Elected President of Argentina October 24, 1999.



## Bahamas



**Population**  
298 000 (1999 projection)

**Capital**  
Nassau

**Total area**  
13 939 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
July 10  
(1973 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
Bahamian dollar

**GDP**  
\$4.5 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$11 790 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$26.3 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$25.9 million (1999)

**Head of government:**  
Prime Minister Hubert A. **Ingraham**

Born August 4, 1957. A law graduate. First elected to the House of Assembly in 1977. Appointed Minister Responsible for Housing, National Insurance and Social Services in 1982. Leader of the Opposition from May 1990 until elected Prime Minister in 1992. Re-elected in March 1997.



## Barbados



**Population**  
280 000 (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Bridgetown

**Total area**  
431 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
November 30  
(1966 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
Barbados dollar

**GDP**  
\$2.32 billion (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$7343 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$41 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$10.6 million (1999)

**Head of government:**  
Prime Minister Owen Seymour **Arthur**

Born October 17, 1949. An economist by profession. Appointed to the Senate in 1983. Became a Member of Parliament in 1984; appointed Leader of the Opposition in 1993. Elected Prime Minister in September 1994; re-elected in January 1999.





# Belize



**Head of government:**  
Prime Minister Said **Musa**

Born March 19, 1944. A lawyer by profession. Appointed to the Senate in 1974, serving until 1979. Later appointed Attorney General, Minister of Education and Sports, and Minister for Economic Development. In 1996 he assumed leadership of the People's United Party and became Prime Minister, the third in the nation's short history.



- Population**  
243 000 (1999 est.)
- Capital**  
Belmopan
- Total area**  
22 923 km<sup>2</sup>
- Language**  
English
- National day**  
September 21  
(1981 Independence Day)
- Currency**  
Belize dollar
- GDP**  
\$577 million (1999)
- GDP per capita**  
\$2412 (1999)
- Canadian exports**  
\$3.3 million (1999)
- Canadian imports**  
\$14 million (1999)

# Bolivia



**Head of state and government:**  
President Hugo **Banzer** Suárez

Born May 10, 1926. A professional soldier, he became commander-in-chief of Bolivia's National Armed Forces. Served as Minister of Education and Culture from 1964 to 1966, and as President of Bolivia from 1971 to 1978. Appointed Ambassador to Argentina in 1978. Re-elected President in 1997.



- Population**  
8.1 million (1999 est.)
- Capital**  
La Paz
- Total area**  
1 098 580 km<sup>2</sup>
- Languages**  
Spanish, Quechua, Aymará
- National day**  
August 6  
(1825 Independence Day)
- Currency**  
boliviano
- GDP**  
\$8.3 billion (1999 est.)
- GDP per capita**  
\$954 (1999)
- Canadian exports**  
\$15.2 million (1999)
- Canadian imports**  
\$16.5 million (1999)

# Brazil



**Head of state and government:**  
President Fernando Henrique **Cardoso**

Born June 18, 1931. First elected to Brazilian Senate in 1978, representing the state of São Paulo. Leader of his party in the Senate from 1988 to 1992. Served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance under former President Itamar Franco. Elected President in 1995; re-elected on October 4, 1998.



- Population**  
170 million (2000)
- Capital**  
Brasília
- Total area**  
8 512 000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Language**  
Portuguese
- National day**  
September 7  
(1822 Independence Day)
- Currency**  
real
- GDP**  
\$651.1 billion (2000 est.)
- GDP per capita**  
\$3193 (1999)
- Canadian exports**  
\$1.04 billion (1999)
- Canadian imports**  
\$1.36 billion (1999)

# Canada



**Head of government:**  
Prime Minister Jean **Chrétien**

Born January 11, 1934. A law graduate. First elected to the House of Commons in 1963. Served in several Cabinet portfolios from 1967 to 1984, including Minister of Justice, Minister of Finance and Secretary of State for External Affairs. Elected leader of the Liberal Party in June 1990. Became Prime Minister in November 1993; re-elected in June 1997 and in November 2000.



- Population**  
30 750 000 (2000 est.)
- Capital**  
Ottawa
- Total area**  
9 970 610 km<sup>2</sup>
- Languages**  
English, French
- National day**  
July 1 (Confederation Day)
- Currency**  
Canadian dollar
- GDP**  
\$644.8 billion (1999)
- GDP per capita**  
\$21 061 (1999)
- Canadian exports to Americas (excl. USA)**  
\$12.928 billion (1999)
- Canadian imports from Americas (excl. USA)**  
\$14.475 billion (1999)

# Chile



**Population**  
15 million (1999 projection)

**Capital**  
Santiago

**Total area**  
756 626 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
September 18  
(1810 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
peso

**GDP**  
\$67.5 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$3942 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$360.5 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$421.5 million (1999)

**Head of state and government:**  
President Ricardo **Lagos** Escobar

Born March 2, 1938. A law graduate with a doctorate in economics. Helped found the Party for Democracy (PPD), which played a key role in ending military rule in 1990. Held the cabinet portfolios of education and public works before being elected President of Chile in 1999.



# Colombia



**Population**  
41.6 million (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Bogotá

**Total area**  
1 141 568 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
July 20  
(1810 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
peso

**GDP**  
\$95.5 billion (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$1534.6 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$254.9 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$280.6 million (1999)

**Head of state and government:**  
President Andrés **Pastrana** Arango

Born August 17, 1954. Son of Misael Pastrana Borrero, President from 1970 to 1974. A law graduate and a fellow of Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. First popularly elected mayor in Bogotá's history, 1988. Unsuccessful presidential candidate in 1994. Elected President on June 21, 1998.



# Costa Rica



**Population**  
3.6 million (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
San José

**Total area**  
51 100 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
September 15  
(1821 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
colón

**GDP**  
\$11.3 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$2172 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$68.7 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$175.6 million (1999)

**Head of state and government:**  
President Miguel Ángel **Rodríguez** Echeverría

Born January 9, 1940. Graduated in economics and law. Entered politics in 1963. Held numerous government posts, including Minister of Planning from 1966 to 1970. Also served as President of the Legislative Assembly in 1991-92. Elected President of Costa Rica in February 1998.



# Dominica



**Population**  
77 000 (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Roseau

**Total area**  
750 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
November 3  
(1978 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
East Caribbean dollar

**GDP**  
\$262.1 million (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$2682 (1996)

**Canadian exports**  
\$5.5 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$1.6 million (1999)

**Head of government:**  
Prime Minister Pierre **Charles**

Born June 30, 1954. A teacher by profession. A member of the Popular Movement for Independence prior to independence in 1978. First elected to the House of Assembly in 1985; served as Communications and Works Minister. Succeeded to Prime Ministership on October 3, 2000, on death of predecessor, Roosevelt Douglas.





# Dominican Republic



**Population**  
8.3 million (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Santo Domingo

**Total area**  
48 734 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
February 27  
(Independence Day)

**Currency**  
peso

**GDP**  
\$17.4 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$1117.7 (1998)

**Canadian exports**  
\$107.8 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$98.7 million (1999)



**Head of state and government:**  
President Hipólito **Mejía** Domínguez

Born February 22, 1941. A graduate in agronomy. Began his political career in 1978 when appointed Secretary of Agriculture. Held this portfolio for four years, then entered the private sector as an international consultant. In 1990 was running mate of Dr. José Francisco Peña Gómez in his unsuccessful bid for the presidency. Elected President on May 16, 2000.

# Ecuador



**Population**  
11.8 million (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Quito

**Total area**  
256 370 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
August 10  
(1822 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
U.S. dollar

**GDP**  
\$13.7 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$1101 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$85.33 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$146.91 million (1999)



**Head of state and government:**  
President Gustavo **Noboa** Bejarano

Born August 21, 1937. A lawyer by profession. Was rector of the Catholic and the public universities of Guayaquil. An independent politician and former governor of Guayas province, served as Vice-President from 1998. Assumed the presidency after removal of his predecessor, Jamil Mahuad, in January 2000.

# El Salvador



**Population**  
6.2 million (1999)

**Capital**  
San Salvador

**Total area**  
21 893 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
September 15  
(1821 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
colón  
U.S. dollar

**GDP**  
\$12.4 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$2014 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$13.8 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$36.4 million (1999)



**Head of state and government:**  
President Francisco **Flores**

Born October 17, 1959. A graduate in political science; holds a master's degree in philosophy. A university professor for 14 years. Entered politics in 1991 and served in several posts, including Deputy Minister for the Presidency and Presidential Adviser. In 1997, elected President of the National Assembly. Elected President of El Salvador on March 7, 1999.

# Grenada



**Population**  
100 500 (1999 projection)

**Capital**  
Saint George's

**Total area**  
340 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
February 7  
(1974 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
East Caribbean dollar

**GDP**  
\$351.8 million (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$2445 (1996)

**Canadian exports**  
\$4.84 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$1.60 million (1999)



**Head of government:**  
Prime Minister Dr. Keith **Mitchell**

Born November 12, 1946. Holds a doctorate in mathematics and statistics. Taught mathematics at Howard University in Washington, D.C., from 1977 to 1983; headed his own consulting firm from 1979 to 1984. Served as Minister of Works, Communications and Public Utilities from 1984 to 1989. Elected Prime Minister in 1995; re-elected in 1999.

# Guatemala



**Population**  
11.1 million (1999)

**Capital**  
Guatemala City

**Total area**  
108 900 km<sup>2</sup>

**Languages**  
Spanish, Mayan dialects

**National day**  
September 15  
(1821 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
quetzal  
U.S. dollar (May 2001)

**GDP**  
\$18.3 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$1024 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$166.9 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$121.9 million (1999)



**Head of state and government:**  
President Alfonso **Portillo**

Born September 24, 1951. Graduated in law, social sciences and economics. Taught economics in Mexico and was columnist for a leading Guatemala City newspaper. From 1994 to 1996, served as Deputy Member of Congress for the Christian Democratic Party. Later represented the Guatemalan Republican Front and was elected President on December 26, 1999.

# Guyana



**Population**  
785 000 (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Georgetown

**Total area**  
214 970 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
February 23  
(Republic Day)

**Currency**  
Guyana dollar

**GDP**  
\$677.5 million (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$742 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$14.6 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$192.0 million (1999)



**Head of state and government:**  
President Bharat **Jagdeo**

Born January 23, 1964. Was Senior Minister of Finance and Director of the National Bank of Industry and Commerce, and of the Caribbean Development Bank. Also served as Guyana's governor at the World Bank, and represented Guyana at meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank. Became President in August 1999 following the resignation of Janet Jagan.

# Haiti



**Population**  
7.8 million (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Port-au-Prince

**Total area**  
27 797 km<sup>2</sup>

**Languages**  
French, Creole

**National day**  
January 1  
(1804 Independence Day)

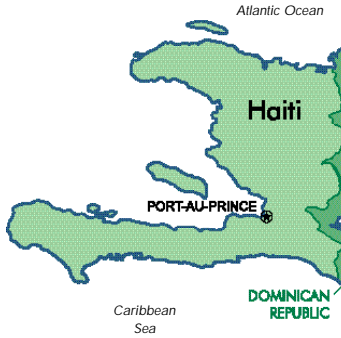
**Currency**  
gourde

**GDP**  
\$3.5 billion (2000 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$209 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$41.4 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$11.1 million (1999)



**Head of state and government:**  
President Jean-Bertrand **Aristide**

Born July 15, 1953. Former Catholic priest. In 1980s, called for non-violent overthrow of Duvalier dictatorship. Became Haiti's first democratically elected President in 1991. Ousted after seven months in a military coup, but was restored to office in 1994 and completed his term. Succeeded in 1996 by René Préval in the country's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power. Won elections in November 2000 and re-assumed presidency on February 7, 2001.

# Honduras



**Population**  
6.7 million (1999)

**Capital**  
Tegucigalpa

**Total area**  
112 087 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
September 15  
(1821 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
lempira

**GDP**  
\$5.5 billion (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$640 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$19.5 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$68.2 million (1999)



**Head of state and government:**  
President Carlos Roberto **Flores** Facussé

Born March 1, 1950. A graduate in international economics and finance. Taught business administration at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras. Past director of Central Bank, Institute of Social Security and National Institute of Professional Training. A former president of the Congress. Elected President of Honduras in November 1997; took office on January 27, 1998.



# Jamaica



**Population**  
2.6 million (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Kingston

**Total area**  
10 991 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
1st Monday in August  
(Independence Day)

**Currency**  
Jamaican dollar

**GDP**  
\$6.7 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$1657 (1999)

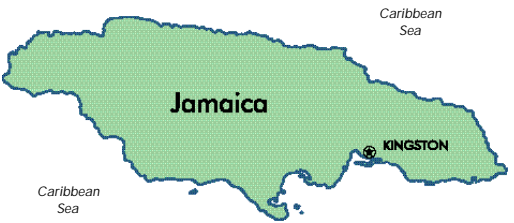
**Canadian exports**  
\$96.7 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$201.0 million (1999)

## Head of government:

Prime Minister Percival James **Patterson**

Born April 10, 1935. Studied law in Jamaica and at the London School of Economics. First elected to Parliament in 1970. Held a number of cabinet posts, including Foreign Affairs and Finance. First appointed Prime Minister in 1992 after being elected president of the People's National Party. Returned to office in national elections in 1993 and 1997.



# Nicaragua



**Population**  
4.9 million (1999)

**Capital**  
Managua

**Total area**  
130 000 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
September 15  
(1821 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
cordoba

**GDP**  
\$2.3 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$465 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$11.5 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$24.4 million (1999)

## Head of state and government:

President Dr. Arnoldo **Aleman** Lacayo

Born January 23, 1946. Obtained a doctorate in law from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua. From 1983 to 1984, was president of the Coffee Association of Managua and the Coffee Union of Nicaragua. From 1986 to 1990, was vice-president of the Agricultural Products Union. Became mayor of Managua in 1990. Elected President on October 26, 1996.



# Paraguay



**Population**  
5.36 million (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Asunción

**Total area**  
406 752 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
May 15  
(1811 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
guarani

**GDP**  
\$7.7 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$1404 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$7.49 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$1.55 million (1999)

## Head of state and government:

President Luis González **Macchi**

Born December 13, 1947. Obtained law degree from the Universidad Nacional de Asunción, and undertook further studies in Madrid. Chaired several official missions abroad and presided over the National Congress. Became President on March 28, 1999, following the resignation of Raúl Cubas.



# Saint Kitts *and* Nevis



**Population**  
45 000 (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Basseterre

**Total area**  
269 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
September 19  
(1983 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
East Caribbean dollar

**GDP**  
\$296.2 million (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$6095 (1997)

**Canadian exports**  
\$10.4 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$5.1 million (1999)



## Head of government:

Prime Minister Dr. Denzil **Douglas**

Born January 14, 1953. A family physician and past president of the country's medical association. In 1989, elected to the National Assembly and became Leader of the Opposition. Elected Prime Minister in 1995; re-elected in March 2000. He currently chairs the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

# Mexico



**Population**  
98.8 million (1999)

**Capital**  
Mexico City

**Total area**  
1 972 550 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
September 16  
(1810 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
peso

**GDP**  
\$485 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$4825 (1999 est.)

**Canadian exports**  
\$4.38 billion (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$9.52 billion (1999)

## Head of state and government:

President Vicente **Fox** Quesada

Born July 2, 1942. Graduated in business administration from the Universidad Iberoamericana and the Harvard Business School. Became Coca-Cola's youngest manager when appointed its chairman for Mexico and Latin America. Elected Federal Deputy in 1988, Governor of the state of Guanajuato in 1995 and President of Mexico on July 2, 2000.



# Panama



**Population**  
2.8 million (1999)

**Capital**  
Panama City

**Total area**  
77 082 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
November 3  
(1903 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
balboa  
U.S. dollar

**GDP**  
\$9.6 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$2845 (1999)

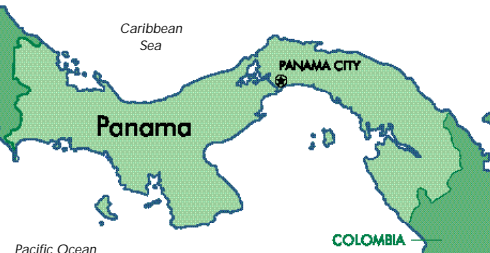
**Canadian exports**  
\$51.5 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$29.3 million (1999)

## Head of state and government:

President Mireya **Moscoso**

Born July 1, 1946. Graduated in interior design from Miami-Dade Community College; holds honorary degrees from several post-secondary institutions. After winning election in May 1999, inaugurated as President of Panama on September 1 of that year—the first woman to hold the office.



# Peru



**Population**  
25.2 million  
(1999 projection)

**Capital**  
Lima

**Total area**  
1 285 215 km<sup>2</sup>

**Languages**  
Spanish, Quechua

**National day**  
July 28  
(1821 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
nuevo sol

**GDP**  
\$51.98 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$2070 (1999 est.)

**Canadian exports**  
\$172.4 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$150.0 million (1999)

## Head of state and government:

President Valentín **Paniagua**

Born September 23, 1936. A constitutional lawyer, he has served as Minister of Justice and of Education, and as Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. Became Interim President of Peru on November 22, 2000, following the removal from office of Alberto Fujimori. New elections scheduled for April 2001.



# Saint Lucia



**Population**  
153 600 (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Castries

**Total area**  
616 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
February 22  
(1979 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
East Caribbean dollar

**GDP**  
\$680.3 million (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$4302 (1998)

**Canadian exports**  
\$12.5 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$500 000 (1999)



## Head of government:

Prime Minister Dr. Kenneth **Anthony**

Born January 8, 1951. A career university teacher and doctor of law. In 1979, became special adviser to the Ministry of Education and Culture and, in 1980, Minister of Education. In 1981, resumed academic career. From 1993 to 1996, served as legal counsel to CARICOM. Then returned to politics and was elected Prime Minister in May 1997.



# Saint Vincent *and the* Grenadines



**Population**  
112 700 (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Kingstown

**Total area**  
340 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
October 27  
(1979 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
East Caribbean dollar

**GDP**  
\$338.8 million (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$2548 (1997)

**Canadian exports**  
\$4.6 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$100 000 (1999)

## Head of government:

Prime Minister Sir James **Mitchell**

Born May 15, 1931. Studied at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad and the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Entered politics in 1966 and served as Premier from 1972 to 1974 (before independence). Became Prime Minister in 1984 and led his party to victory in three subsequent elections. Has been a leading figure in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.



# Trinidad *and* Tobago



**Population**  
1.3 million  
(1999 projection)

**Capital**  
Port of Spain

**Total area**  
5130 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
August 31  
(Independence Day)

**Currency**  
Trinidad and Tobago dollar

**GDP**  
\$6.6 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$4725 (1998)

**Canadian exports**  
\$161.9 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$73.7 million (1999)

## Head of government:

Prime Minister Dr. Basdeo **Panday**

Born May 25, 1933. Studied law at Lincoln's Inn, economics at the University of London, and drama at the London School of Dramatic Arts. Entered politics in 1966. Founded and became leader of the United Labour Front party. Later founded and became leader of the United National Congress party. Sworn in as Prime Minister on November 9, 1995.



# Uruguay



**Population**  
3.3 million  
(1999 projection)

**Capital**  
Montevideo

**Total area**  
176 215 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
August 25  
(1825 Proclamation of Independence)

**Currency**  
peso

**GDP**  
\$19.3 billion (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$3819 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$37.5 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$89.1 million (1999)

## Head of state and government:

President Jorge **Batlle**

Born October 25, 1927. Received a doctorate from the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Universidad de la República. Practised law and journalism. First elected to the Senate in 1985, serving until 1990. Re-elected in 1995; resigned on being named presidential candidate for the Colorado Party. Elected President in March 2000.



# Suriname



**Population**  
495 000 (1999 est.)

**Capital**  
Paramaribo

**Total area**  
163 265 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Dutch

**National day**  
November 25  
(1975 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
guilder

**GDP**  
\$1062 billion (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$847.9 (1999 est.)

**Canadian exports**  
\$5.4 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$82.5 million (1999)

## Head of state and government:

President Runaldo R. **Venetiaan**

Born June 18, 1936. A graduate in mathematics. Professional teacher and former principal at three teachers' colleges. Served as Minister of Education, head of the Bureau for Scientific Education and Research, research adviser at the General Statistics Bureau, and executive member of UNESCO. Elected President of Suriname in 1991; completed his term in 1996. Won presidential elections in May 2000 and re-assumed office in August.



# United States *of* America



**Population**  
276.4 million (2000 est.)

**Capital**  
Washington, D.C.

**Total area**  
9 364 000 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
English

**National day**  
July 4  
(Independence Day)

**Currency**  
U.S. dollar

**GDP**  
\$9 299 trillion (2000 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$34 091 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$309.4 billion (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$249.3 billion (1999)

## Head of state and government:

President George W. **Bush**

Born July 6, 1946. A graduate of Harvard Business School, holds a master's degree in business administration. Served as a fighter pilot with the Texas Air National Guard. Worked in the oil and gas business before becoming co-owner of a professional baseball team. Elected governor of the state of Texas in 1994; re-elected in 1998. Sworn in as President on January 20, 2001.



# Venezuela



**Population**  
24 million (2000 est.)

**Capital**  
Caracas

**Total area**  
912 050 km<sup>2</sup>

**Language**  
Spanish

**National day**  
July 5  
(1811 Independence Day)

**Currency**  
bolívar

**GDP**  
\$106 billion (2000 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$3028 (1999)

**Canadian exports**  
\$524.0 million (1999)

**Canadian imports**  
\$1 013 billion (1999)

## Head of state and government:

President Hugo R. **Chavez** Frias

Born July 28, 1954. Embarked on a military career at an early age; also studied history and social sciences. Entered politics in 1998 and was elected President of Venezuela in December of that year. Re-elected in July 2000.



## Snapshot of the Americas



**Number of countries**  
34

**Total population**  
800 million

**Main languages**  
English, French, Spanish, Portuguese

**Other languages**  
Hundreds of Indigenous languages and Creole

**First inhabitants**  
Came mainly from Siberia over 11 000 years ago

**European settlement**  
Began in the late 15th century

**Total GDP**  
\$17 trillion

**Total area**  
42 million km<sup>2</sup>

**Total length**  
15 000 km

**Northernmost point**  
Ellesmere Island, Canada

**Southernmost point**  
Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

**Canadian exports**  
\$322.3 billion

**Canadian imports**  
\$263.8 billion



# PLAYING HOST TO THE Americas

The Québec Summit is the culmination of a two-year series of hemispheric meetings and other events hosted by Canada. Here is a quick look at these events and their outcomes.



Session of the OAS General Assembly in Windsor, Ontario, June 5, 2000

## OAS General Assembly

Last June 4 to 6, foreign ministers from throughout the Hemisphere came to Windsor, Ontario, for the 30th OAS General Assembly. They discussed 70 resolutions and a range of issues to do with democratic development and human security. The meeting helped shape the agenda that national leaders will discuss at the Third Summit of the Americas.

Participating in Windsor were 13 Canadian and 40 Latin American NGOs—the largest representation ever of civil society at a General Assembly. Their presence was recognition of the role played by non-governmental groups in achieving many OAS goals.

## FTAA Trade Ministers' Meeting

A major commitment of the Summit of the Americas process has been to complete negotiations on a Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005. Canada chaired the first phase of the negotiations in 1998 and 1999, leading up to the FTAA Trade Ministers' Meeting in Toronto on November 3 and 4, 1999.

The FTAA process provides for the involvement of non-governmental parties. This is the first international trade negotiation process with a formal mechanism for non-governmental participation.



Prime Minister Chrétien's wife Aline (front row centre, in red dress) poses with other participants in the Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, Ottawa, September 1999.

## Fifth Americas Business Forum

Immediately preceding the FTAA Trade Ministers' Meeting was the Fifth Americas Business Forum, again in Toronto, from November 1 to 3, 1999. It attracted over 800 business leaders from all 34 countries involved in the FTAA process.

The Forum was an opportunity for participants to make contacts and deals, and express their views on how to build a Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement.

## Ninth Conference of Spouses

The Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas has roots going back to 1980. Since 1994, the event has drawn participants from throughout the Hemisphere. Ottawa was the site for the 1999 conference from September 29 to October 1, led by Aline Chrétien, wife of Canada's Prime Minister.

On the agenda in Ottawa were two topics: investing in children, and women's health. Innovations in 1999 were the participation of international co-operation agencies, and an NGO fair with two representatives per country. Each state demonstrated what it was doing on women's health and children's issues, and could see the initiatives under way elsewhere.

## Pan American Games

From July 23 to August 8, 1999, more than 5000 athletes under 42 flags took part in the XIII Pan American Games in Winnipeg. This was one of the largest sports competitions ever held in North America, surpassed only by the 1984 and 1996 Summer Olympics. ●—

photos: CANAPRESS

# THE Managua Challenge

RIDDING THE AMERICAS OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

When a convention banning anti-personnel mines (APMs) was opened for signature at a conference in Ottawa in 1997, it inspired great hopes. At last the world had an effective tool; now it could tackle the problem and make a real difference to people in mine-affected communities.

The countries of the Americas have taken a lead in fulfilling those hopes. Even before the 1997 conference, Central and South American states pledged to make the Hemisphere mine-free. Today, 33 out of 35 states in the region have signed the Ottawa Convention and 27 have ratified it, formally agreeing to ban APM use, stockpiling, production and transfer.

Less than four years later, the Convention is making a difference around the world and here in the Americas. In the countries most affected by mines, casualty rates have fallen. Also declining are global production, export and trade in APMs. Over 22 million mines have been destroyed by more than 50 countries. And anti-personnel mines are being removed from the ground faster than they are being planted.

Throughout the Americas, countries are clearing mines, destroying stockpiles, assisting victims and promoting mine awareness. By addressing local mine action needs, they are moving the entire region closer to meeting its pledge.

This coming September, the Nicaraguan capital of Managua will host the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. Issued in the run-up to the event, the "Managua Challenge" seeks to

speed implementation of the Ottawa Convention in the Americas.

The Managua meeting will focus the eyes of the world on the Americas. The Challenge seizes on that moment, calling on signatory countries of the region to take dramatic steps by September:

- to complete ratification of the Convention if they have not yet done so;
- to complete all Convention Article 7 transparency reports; and
- to completely destroy their APM stockpiles.



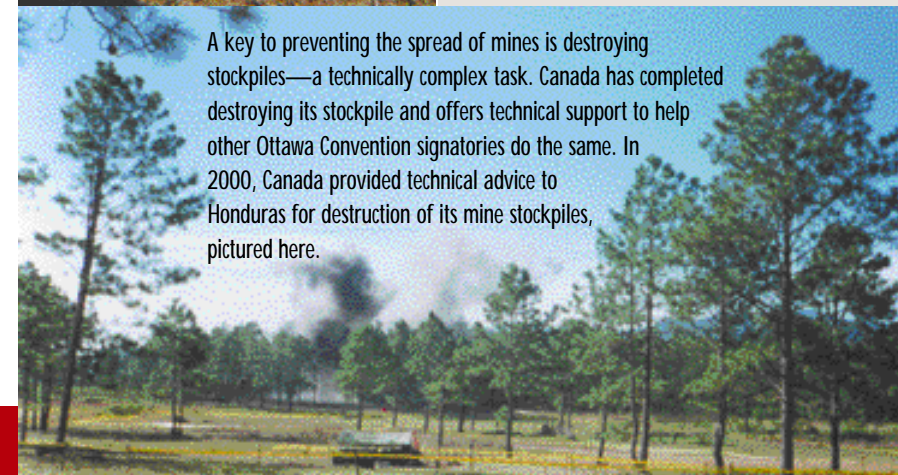
Drawing on the \$100 million Canadian Landmine Fund and other resources, Canada is helping the states of the Americas fulfil their Convention obligations and rise to the Managua Challenge.

Together, we are making measurable progress toward a world free from the threat of anti-personnel mines. And the Americas are well on their way to becoming the world's first APM-free hemisphere. ●—



Mine clearance returns land to safe and productive use, and builds confidence between countries. Canada provides Canadian-made protective gear for the clearance of the Peru-Ecuador border.

Assistance programs in the Americas help meet the immediate and long-term needs of mine victims, from initial emergency treatment to social and economic rehabilitation. Among programs to which Canada contributes is this prosthetics clinic in Nicaragua.



A key to preventing the spread of mines is destroying stockpiles—a technically complex task. Canada has completed destroying its stockpile and offers technical support to help other Ottawa Convention signatories do the same. In 2000, Canada provided technical advice to Honduras for destruction of its mine stockpiles, pictured here.

Just released! *Measured Step s: The Global Movement to Ban Landmines* is a 17-minute video on the global movement to ban anti-personnel mines. Created primarily by DFAIT for a Canadian youth audience, the Canada-focussed primer offers an overview of the problem, a history of the diplomatic efforts culminating in the Ottawa Convention, a look at current mine action and points on what viewers can do.

The video is available in English or French in VHS format. For a free copy, contact DFAIT's Enquiries Services, tel. 1-800-267-8376 (toll-free) or (613) 944-4000 (National Capital Region), fax (613) 996-9709, e-mail: enqserv@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

photos: DFAIT





# What Canadians say about

## North Korea AND UN peace operations

Recent discussions held under the aegis of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) examined two highly topical issues:

- What happens now that Canada has formal ties with North Korea?
- How do we provide the wide range of experts needed for UN peace operations today?

### Into the hermit kingdom

Until recently, North Korea was virtually sealed off from the outside world. With the collapse of the country's economy, however, and the famine that has taken 3 million lives since 1995, the Pyongyang regime has been forced to open up its borders and seek assistance for rebuilding.

Canada was one of the states that decided to take up the challenge and establish diplomatic relations with North Korea. But this step raises several questions: How do we develop public and business partnerships in the context of a tightly controlled society and economy? How can we help alleviate hardship in North Korea? How can we contribute to longer-term development? What does the North Korean government expect from formalizing its relationship with Canada?

To investigate some of these questions, in January CCFPD organized a one-day roundtable in Victoria, B.C. Sharing their expertise and views were representatives of NGOs and churches, academics, businesspeople, and government officials. The participants included Paul Evans of the University of British Columbia, Erich Weingartner of CanKor.net, Rev. Alfred Lee of the Korean Presbyterian Church, Charles Kim of Trans-Pac Fibre Inc., Bohdana Dutka of CIDA and David McLellan of DFAIT. The business representatives expressed caution about operating in North Korea without a solid legal framework and basic infrastructure. The roundtable made several recommendations:

- Offer humanitarian assistance in the short term to lessen critical food shortages.
- Expand the presence of Canadian NGOs inside North Korea.
- Initiate regular academic exchanges and training programs.
- Conduct bilateral exchanges at the government level.
- Establish business contacts.

### Experts for peace operations

Canadians are participating in international peace operations that have a role for many non-government partners and require a wide range of professional expertise. CCFPD discussions have looked at ways to better include experts in child protection, public administration and the justice system. Among the participants: Justice Ellen Macdonald of the Ontario Superior Court, Paul Larose-Edwards of the Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights, Marianne Wightman of the UN Mission in Kosovo, and Susan Brown of CIDA.

As an outcome of the discussion, CCFPD is proposing a larger role for active or retired municipal administrators, business executives, judges and the legal community. Recommendations include the following:

- Re-assess the age limit imposed by the UN for participants in peace support operations.
- Rather than simply monitoring elections, Canada should facilitate power-sharing negotiations between opposing parties that compete for votes.
- Develop rosters, manage volunteers at home, establish ground rules for participants and provide pre-deployment training.
- DFAIT should do more to help open doors for civilians abroad. ●

For more information about the Centre's roundtables or for copies of reports on a variety of subjects, e-mail the CCFPD at [info.ccfpd@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:info.ccfpd@dfait-maeci.gc.ca) or contact Chantale Walker, Communications and Media Relations Officer ([chantale.walker@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:chantale.walker@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)). Visit as well the Centre's Web site: <http://www.cfp-pec.gc.ca>

photos: DFAIT



## NATIONS

IN • THE • NEWS

### Outlook:

#### Warm and sunny for Canada-Caribbean ties

Canada and the Caribbean have links dating back to the 18th century, when trade routes were established between the Maritimes and the West Indies. Back then, the top sellers were Canadian lumber and salt fish, shipped southward in return for Caribbean sugar and rum. Today, two-way trade exceeds \$1 billion, with Canadian exports reaching \$441 million and imports \$621 million. Among our leading exports to the region are computers and telecommunications equipment; our Caribbean imports include clothing, steel products and industrial chemicals.

The very first Canadian trade mission to the region took place in 1866, when representatives of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island visited the West Indies and Brazil to explore commercial opportunities. In 1892, the federal government hired West Indian trade agents on a part-time basis to help promote trade with Canada.

By the 1920s, the trade was so important that the federal government created the Canadian National Steamships (CNS) line to consolidate shipping services to the West Indies and Bermuda. From 1928 to the mid-1950s, CNS operated a twice-monthly cargo-passenger service between Halifax and the islands, with a stop at Boston. The trading relationship was supported by banking: Canadian financial institutions have operated in the Caribbean for over 100 years.

Collectively, the 14 countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) now are Canada's fifth-largest trading partner in the Hemisphere, ranking behind the United States, Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela. Trade between Canada and the Caribbean is increasingly diversified, and Canadian investment in the area approaches \$25 billion.

Development assistance is another key feature of Canada's presence in the region. The Canadian International Development Agency is helping Caribbean countries become more economically competitive and strengthen their management of the environment and natural resources.

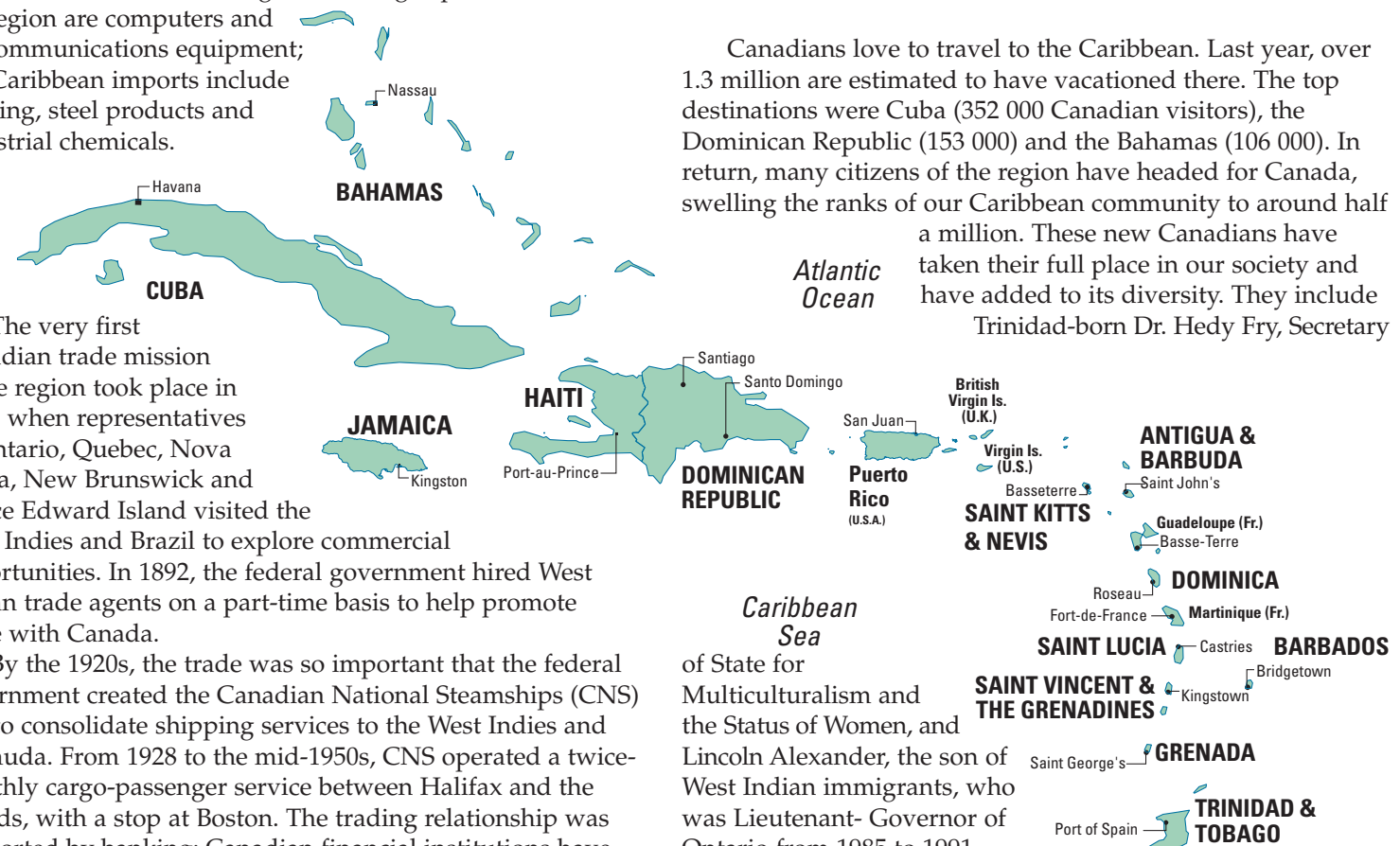


photo: CANAPRESS



Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (front centre) poses for a group photo with CARICOM heads of government in Montego Bay, Jamaica, January 19, 2001. Front row, from left: Antigua and Barbuda PM Lester Bird, Bahamas PM Hubert Ingraham, Jamaica PM Percival Patterson, Mr. Chrétien, Barbados PM Owen Arthur, St. Lucia PM Kenneth Anthony, CARICOM Secretary-General Edwin Carrington. Back row, from left: Grenada PM Keith Mitchell, Trinidad PM Basdeo Panday, Haiti PM Jacques Alexis, Guyana PM Samuel Hinds, Dominica PM Pierre Charles, Belize PM Said Musa, Suriname President Rinaldo Venetiaan, Dominican Republic President Hipólito Mejía, St. Kitts PM Denzil Douglas.

Canadians love to travel to the Caribbean. Last year, over 1.3 million are estimated to have vacationed there. The top destinations were Cuba (352 000 Canadian visitors), the Dominican Republic (153 000) and the Bahamas (106 000). In return, many citizens of the region have headed for Canada, swelling the ranks of our Caribbean community to around half a million. These new Canadians have taken their full place in our society and have added to its diversity. They include Trinidad-born Dr. Hedy Fry, Secretary

of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, and Lincoln Alexander, the son of West Indian immigrants, who was Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario from 1985 to 1991.

Canada and the CARICOM countries have a tradition of frequent, frank consultations. Leaders gather for formal summit meetings about every two years, and they meet frequently on the margins of other international gatherings. This past January, Prime Minister Chrétien joined his CARICOM counterparts for a two-day summit in Jamaica. The leaders decided to hold discussions with a view to launching negotiations on a free trade agreement between Canada and CARICOM. They also agreed to consult closely on the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas.

All in all, the skies look bright for the Canada-Caribbean relationship in the years ahead. ●

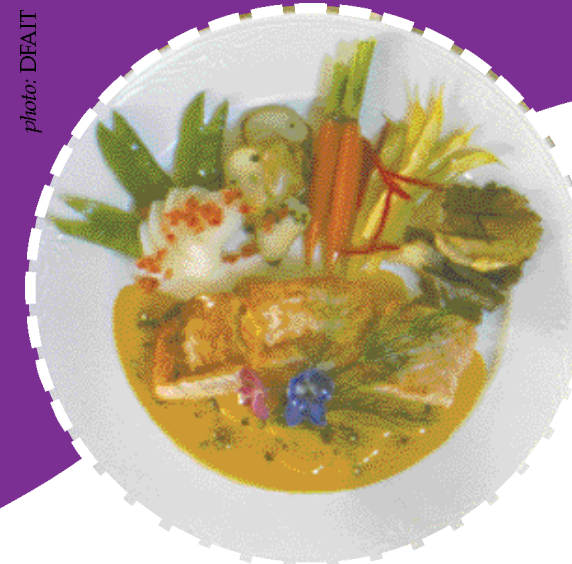


# Culture • WHAT • binds our diverse societies together

The Summit of the Americas is far more than a meeting of leaders discussing political, social and economic issues. It's a chance for Canadians to explore the many vibrant cultures of the Hemisphere, and for people from all over the Americas to discover Canada.

Cultural events figure prominently in plans for the Summit. Ever since Canada was named the host, it has given priority to developing a lively cultural program to accompany the rest of the Summit's activities. The line-up of events will show the diversity of cultural expression from Nunavut to Tierra del Fuego, as well as the many common threads binding our scattered peoples together.

photo: DFAIT



## Youth contest

The Québec City newspaper *Le Soleil* holds an annual drawing and writing contest for high school students. This year, contestants are tackling an apt theme: "My favourite person in the history of the Americas." Students in Secondary I and II (ages 12 to 14) have to submit a drawing; those in Secondary III, IV and V (ages 14 to 17) have to write an essay of 250–300 words.

The contest began last October and runs until March 25. Each Sunday, *Le Soleil* publishes winning entries, chosen by cartoonist André-Philippe Côté. The winners then go to a jury, which will select the best of the best—one drawing and one essay. The grand prize winners will be announced on April 12 in a ceremony at the Artillery Park National Historic Site.

## Youth theatre

Fuerza Activa is a theatre company with a difference: Its members are a dozen high school students from a poor district of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. The group first came to Canada last year to stage their production of *El Principito*, an adaptation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*. For the Summit, they return to perform their short play *Audiencia de descargo*. The piece explores the relationships between rich and poor, and the aspirations of people marginalized by society.

## The Americas on screen

Images du Nouveau Monde is a festival that began in 2000 as a competition for films from throughout the Hemisphere. Attracting 8000 visitors, it was an immediate success. In its second year the plan is for on an even larger show. The honorary patron is well-known filmmaker Denys Arcand.

At least five Québec City theatres are participating. The festival presents both short and feature-length films in their original language, with some of them subtitled in English or French.

## At the local library

From February 13 to April 30, a special attraction is drawing visitors to Québec City's Gabrielle-Roy Public Library: a series of some 20 panels, each profiling a writer from one of the countries participating in the Summit. And there's more on offer at the library:

- Arte de la Tierra Colombia is an exhibit of 20 clay statuettes loaned by the Colombian Ministry of Culture. Accompanying it is an audiovisual display on Colombia's art and culture.
- On show in the children's area of the library are drawings by children from many countries, expressing their feelings about human rights. Local children are being invited to submit their own drawings on the same subject. This popular exhibition has already toured many locations throughout the Americas.
- From January 28 to March 25, library visitors are each being asked to choose 50 titles for a "Library of the Americas" collection, making their selection from a list compiled by library staff and including reader suggestions. Local bookseller Renaud-Bray will present one lucky participant with the 50 works he or she chose.

## The art of food

An annual event in Québec City is the Coupe des Nations, an international competition of top-ranking chefs. This year it takes place from March 23 to 25, and for the first time welcomes masters of the culinary arts from Martinique, Venezuela and the United States. On top of that, Aboriginal chefs from Canada's new territory of Nunavut and other areas serve up their traditional cuisine for local gourmets.

## La Muestra Cultural

Montréal's La Muestra Cultural is a Spanish-language artistic and cultural event that every year draws crowds. In 2001 it salutes the Summit with an exhibit of works at City Hall from April 3 to 28, plus a fair at the Complexe Desjardins from April 17 to 20. The aim is to bring the cultures of Latin America to the people of Montréal.

## Museums on line

Québec City's Musée de la civilisation is organizing a Web site linking at least eight museums in different parts of the Hemisphere. Visitors to <http://www.amerimumi.org> will be able to explore exhibits from many sites on Summit-related topics. They can also join in on-line discussions of these topics with Net surfers throughout the Americas.

## Authors speak

The Salon international du livre de Québec is the city's premier book event of the year. This April 13, it's scheduling a daylong session on cultural diversity and globalization. Come listen to some 15 leading writers from across the Americas and the Caribbean, investigating the many aspects of cultural diversity in an age when borders are disappearing.

## At Artillery Park

Québec's Artillery Park is the site for three cultural exhibitions linked to the Summit. One display delves into the culture and history of all 34 participating countries, as illustrated by artifacts from national and other collections. Another exhibit features non-stop videos from many countries, while a third showcases the works of two leading modern Bolivian painters. ●—

Flanked by actors

Jessica Paré and Dan Aykroyd, director Denys Arcand (centre) speaks at a Toronto International Film Festival press conference, on September 8, 2000.



photo: CANAPRESS

photo: Tony Sladden





## A r t i s t s o f t h e A m e r i c a s

New dimensions  
to Canada's

## national identity

photos: DPAIT

**Jorge Peral**

Have you noticed the new Canadian ten-dollar bill? It was designed by Mexican-born Jorge Peral. After immigrating to Canada in 1995, Jorge was soon appointed Art Director at the Canadian Bank Note Company. Among his outstanding work since then: the engraving of Canada's eight-dollar Grizzly Bear postage stamp and the one-dollar Loon stamp, and the design and engraving of the ninety-five-cent Millennium Dove stamp.

A painter, Jorge has designed and engraved bank notes and coins for the Bank of Mexico and several Latin American countries. In addition, for the 1986 soccer World Cup in Mexico he designed six commemorative silver coins. One of these won the International Numismatic Award from the city of Varese, Italy.

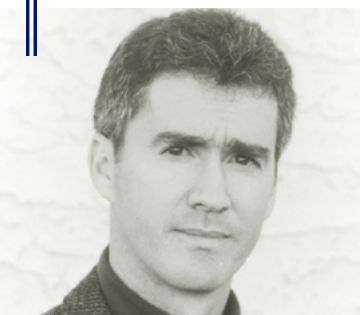
Canadian  
ten-dollar bill

**José Osios**

Another Latin American who has left his mark on Canada's currency is José Osios of the Royal Canadian Mint. Born in Valencia, Venezuela, he came to Canada in 1979 to study English at Carleton University in Ottawa, where he met his future wife. He went on to study visual arts at Ottawa's Algonquin College, and dental technology at Toronto's George Brown College.

His unique combination of skills in art, magnification and detail work brought him to the Mint in 1997. José is responsible for the layout, modelling and creation of Canadian and international coins. Among his favourite creations: the 1999 gold Provincial Flowers coin for Prince Edward Island; the Lunar Coins series, featuring last year's popular Dragon coin; and the January 2000 Pride coin.

Royal Canadian Mint gold coin  
for 1999

**Germán Jaramillo-Mckenzie**

A native of Colombia, Germán Jaramillo-Mckenzie earned a degree from the University of Bogotá before coming to Canada in 1989. Settling in Regina, he soon found a position as an art instructor at the Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre.

Germán's creations have been exhibited in Canada, Colombia, China, Hong Kong and the United States; and his works are found in private collections around the world. His spectacular murals adorn buildings in Canada and Colombia. He has received art awards from institutions in Canada, Colombia and the United States.

From Way Up North  
(oil on masonite, 1998)

**Ena J. Auguste**

Born in Miragoâne in Haiti, Ena Auguste is a professional nurse working in Québec City. She moved there 37 years ago after graduating from the Mandell School in New York. Outside her hospital duties, she taught herself to paint and became an accomplished visual artist. Her work has won recognition here and in New York, Paris and Haiti. She is the recipient of several awards from institutions in Canada and abroad.

**Hibiscus****Gilda M. Pontbriand**

A native of Mexico City, Gilda Pontbriand is a highly acclaimed painter who has won at least eight national and international awards.

Gilda came to Canada in 1974 and lives in Ottawa. She has had over 50 group and solo shows in Canada, Japan, Korea, Mexico and the United States. Her paintings are found in many public, private and corporate collections around the world, and have been reproduced in several books and magazines. In 1997 she was invited to supervise Youth Volunteer Corps members who were creating a mural in Ottawa. Entitled *Friendship*, the mural is located at the Shepherds of Good Hope mission.

**Ellarbol** (acrylic on canvas)**Silvia Araya**

Born in Santiago, Chile, Silvia Araya moved to Canada in 1977 and settled in the Québec City area. She is a graduate of the University of Chile.

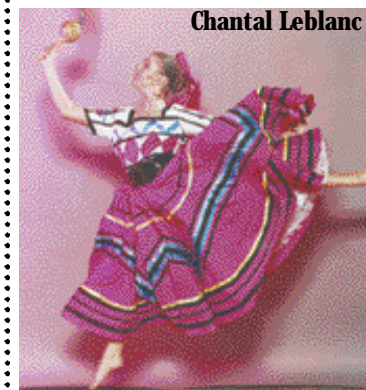
Silvia has won several awards for her work, including the Rotary International Gold Medal and the Canadian House of Commons Distinction Award for her outstanding contribution to Quebec culture. She is founder of a Québec City art school, where she has taught painting to a total of 1000 students since 1977. Her work is shown in galleries in Canada and abroad.

**La Gaspésie****Grupo America Dance Compan y**

The members of the Vancouver-based Grupo America Dance Company are masters of both music and dance. Grupo America includes a troupe of 26 professional dancers, a dance school and a mariachi-style musical ensemble called Trio America.

Grupo America was founded by sister and brother Erika and Diego Sanchez, natives of Colombia. The company has performed in Western Canada and the U.S. Northwest, promoting Latin culture. In 1997, Grupo America was invited to play at events connected with the APEC summit in Vancouver. It appears regularly in schools all over British Columbia, presenting a colourful show.

Festejo-Peru  
(Afro-Peruvian Dance)

**Los Pequeños / Nadxieli**

The rhythms of Latin America pulsate in the work of two Montréal-based groups of young performers. The players in Los Pequeños are children aged 3 to 12, while teens aged 13 to 17 take the spotlight in Nadxieli (a word meaning "love" in the Zapotec language). The groups were founded in 1990 by Montrealese Chantal Leblanc to showcase the music, dance and costumes of Mexican regional folk traditions. ●

Xavier Fernandez Londono  
Noémi Lira-Rinfret

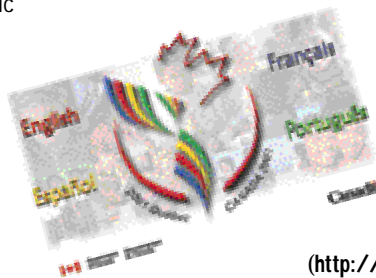




## The Summit of the Americas on the Web

For comprehensive updates on the Québec meetings before, during and after the Summit, consult the DFAIT Web site on the event (<http://www.AmericasCanada.org>). You'll find everything you want to know about the social, cultural, political and economic questions and the many things we have in common with our hemispheric neighbours, plus hyperlinks to hundreds of sites of interest. From in-depth studies of issues to wide-ranging coverage of cultural events, **AmericasCanada.org** has it all. **The Park**, for example, is an on-line magazine that features personality profiles, book reviews, essays and artistic exploration from across the Americas. Connect from it to the **YouthZone**, a highly informative and

entertaining site featuring **Cool Links** to videos, music, games, science and the environment. The Zone also puts you in touch with young people and groups from all over the Hemisphere. And if you want to share and discuss ideas about Summit issues, visit the **Interactive** section with its discussion forum and chat room.



To learn about Canada's relations with individual countries of the Hemisphere, consult the Department's Web site on Latin America and the Caribbean (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/latinamerica/menu-e.asp>). It offers a wealth of links to governments, hemispheric institutions and organizations, and civil society-related Web sites.



### Where **Canada** meets the world

Please come and visit the Lester B. Pearson Building, home of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, at 125 Sussex Drive in Ottawa, Ontario. Free guided tours are available yearlong.

For more information or to book a tour:  
Maricarmen Charbonneau  
Tel.: (613) 992-9541  
E-mail: [maricarmen.charbonneau@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:maricarmen.charbonneau@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

## DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

Canadian missions in 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean can now be accessed directly on the Internet. Visit <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/latinamerica/embassies-e.asp> to connect with sites of embassies and consulates. You'll find useful information on the countries where those missions are situated, plus links to local governments and resources. To reach the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and consulates across the United States, visit: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/geo/usa/menu-e.asp>

When travelling in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, stay connected to Canada by tuning in to **Radio Canada International (RCI)**. On shortwave and the Internet, it broadcasts Canadian news and other information programs in English, French and Spanish. For schedules and frequencies, consult RCI's Web site: <http://www.rcinet.ca>

Civil society plays an ever-increasing role in hemispheric affairs. Visit <http://www.civil-society.oas.org/CSO-links.htm> to connect with a vast network of institutions and NGOs involved in activities/issues ranging from social development, environment and justice to children, Indigenous peoples, peace and security, and women's concerns. Several Canadian organizations are listed on the site.

The inter-American human rights system was launched with the **American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man**, adopted in Bogotá, Colombia, in April 1948. The American Declaration was the first international human rights instrument of a general nature. It preceded by a few months the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948.

In our NEXT ISSUE

### Issue 12 • Summer 2001

Scheduled for June 2001, the **Canada World View** summer issue will focus on the 25th anniversary of Canada-European Union ties. From political and economic to scientific and cultural aspects, we will present an overview of this relationship, which is crucial to Canada's national and international interests. ●—

